

Rep. Peter Welch issued the following statement Thursday after the Senate adopted an amendment to end taxpayer subsidies to the ethanol industry. The measure passed by a vote of 73 to 27 and will now go to the House for consideration.

Early today, Welch supported and the House passed an amendment to ensure the ethanol industry does not receive an additional subsidy from taxpayers.

"I commend the Senate for repealing these unnecessary and harmful subsidies to the ethanol industry. This is a clear signal to the ethanol industry: the days of your reliance on the taxpayer are numbered. At a time when Americans are demanding Washington get its fiscal house in order, it is simply unjustifiable to ask taxpayers to support a mature and profitable industry. Not only is the ethanol industry soaking up scarce taxpayer dollars, its product is driving up the cost of feed for struggling dairy farmers and damaging small engines used in boats, lawnmowers and motorcycles."

Welch is a co-sponsor of the Repeal Ethanol Subsidies Today Act (H.R. 1188), which would terminate the subsidies. He has also written to House Speaker John Boehner urging him to allow a floor vote on repealing the subsidies.